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COLONY CAGE HOUSE

...for
poultry

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COOPERATIVE
FARM BUILDING
Plan No. 5931

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PLAN EXCHANGE

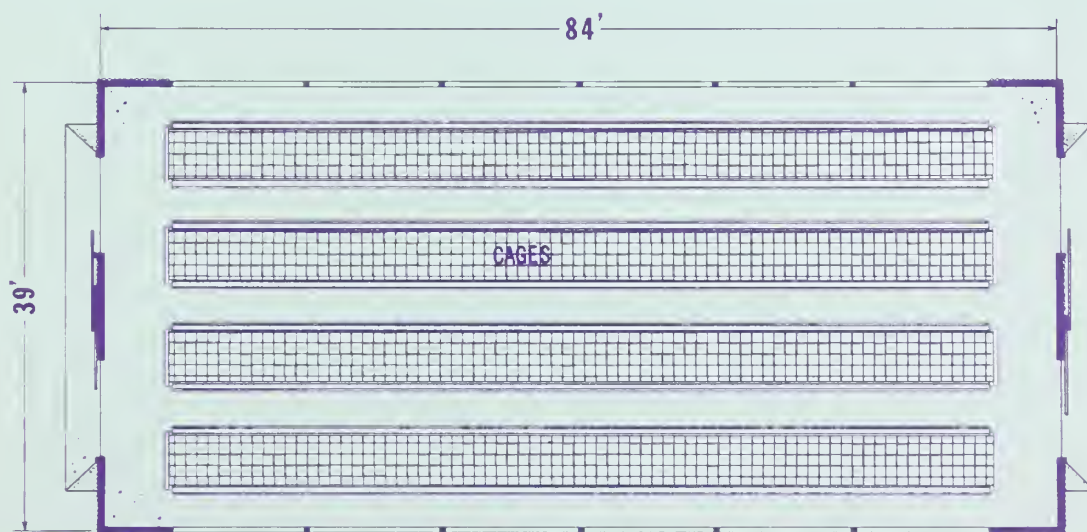


This colony cage house is well adapted to the south and southwest areas of the U.S. The level floor slab shown in this design is more suitable for dry than for humid areas.

The structure shown is 84 feet long, although buildings up to 300 feet long have been very satisfactory. The roof design permits cantilevering the side overhang to 6 feet without the support of a curtain wall on the exterior.

The open, screened sidewalls keep the inside cool. If the fly problem can be controlled, the screens can be removed for better air movement. Also, if a single-deck cage system is used, the air will move more freely throughout.

This 84-foot structure has 288 2- by 2-foot cages. With five birds per cage, 1,440 layers can be housed here, with a density of about 0.8 square feet of floor per layer. To increase the density, either make the



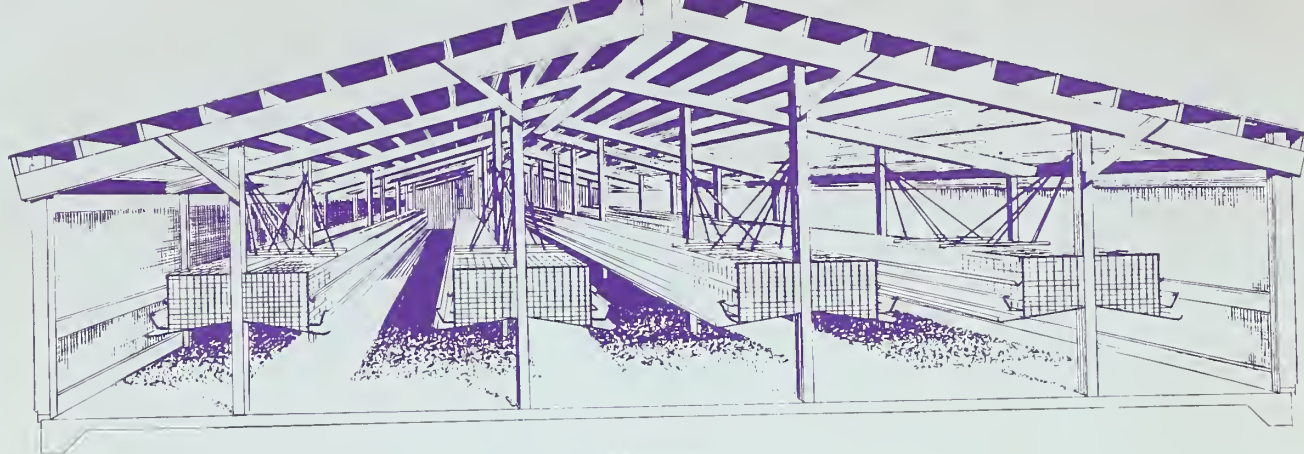
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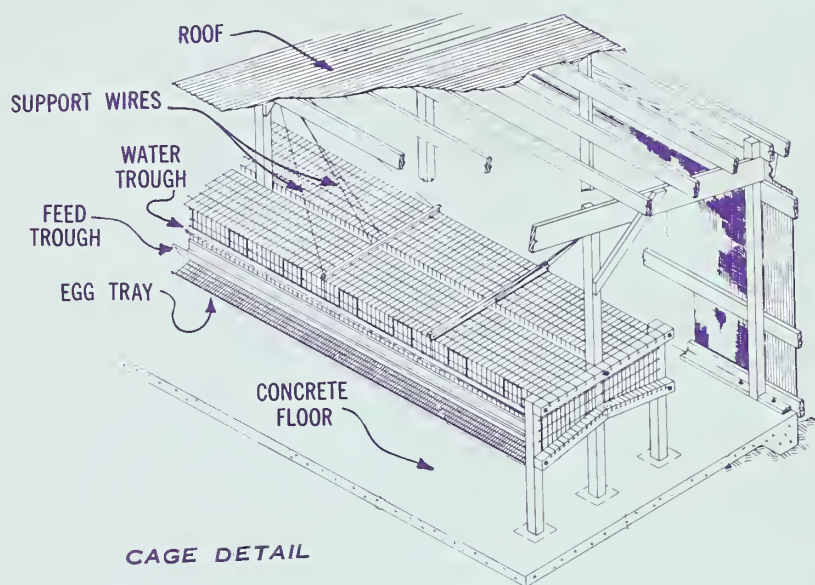
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SECTION



CAGE DETAIL

cages deeper or use a double-deck system. The single-deck system is easier to manage, less expensive to service, and requires less equipment for feeding birds, gathering eggs, and removing manure than the double-deck system. However, the same number of nests can be cared for with less walking and in less space by using the double-deck system.

The care and management of very young birds in colony cages should be worked out with a poultryman who is experienced in the use of colony cage housing.

The colony cage system is adaptable to the use of mechanized equipment, some of which may be added later. If the use of a mechanical manure remover is planned, construction details such as floor level and pole locations should be worked out before the structure is started. Manure can be removed either by using hand implements and a wheelbarrow or by using a pickup auger on a power cart.

Feeding may be done either by hand, by an auger from a power cart, or by mechanical horizontal conveyors.

Eggs may be gathered and placed on belt conveyors that will move them to a cleaning and grading room, or they may be collected by hand and placed either in baskets or directly in flats if they are not to be graded before sale.

Complete working drawings may be obtained from the extension agricultural engineer at your State university. There may be a small charge to cover cost of printing.

If you do not know the location of your State university, send your request to Agricultural Engineer, Federal Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. He will forward your request to the correct university.

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